



Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

NOAA Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:
Sustainable Fisheries Division
(978) 281- 9315

<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov>
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ATLANTIC SEA SCALLOP FISHERY: **LIMITED ACCESS GENERAL CATEGORY (LAGC) SCALLOP VESSELS**

Updated Allocations for the Remainder of the 2016 Fishing Year
and Other New Measures
Effective Date: May 4, 2016

The following information describes new measures implementing Framework 27 and a summary of how they may affect your fishing plans and activities for the remainder of the 2016 fishing year. We have also included reminders of some current requirements. Please read through each section carefully, and distribute this letter to your vessel operators. This summary is not a substitute for the actual regulations, and we encourage you to review the full text of the regulations, available at <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov>.

We have posted additional information on our website at:
<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/sustainable/species/scallop/>.

Final 2016 Allocations for all LAGC vessels

Updated Fishing Year 2016 Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Allocations: The table below includes the LAGC fleet IFQ allocations effective May 4, 2016, through the remainder of fishing year 2016. We will send you a separate letter that specifies your vessel's updated 2016 IFQ, which we set based on the following allocations.

LAGC Fleet Allocations

LAGC IFQ only	1,845 mt (4,067,529 lb)
LAGC IFQ with limited access scallop permit	184 mt (405,651 lb)

IFQ Overage Payback (accountability measure): Please remember that it is unlawful to exceed your IFQ allocation at any point in the year. You can balance an overage within a fishing year through temporary IFQ leases and/or permanent allocation transfers completed before the applicable fishing year ends. We will deduct any overages that remain at the end of the fishing year from the following year's IFQ allocation on a pound-for-pound basis.

For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.

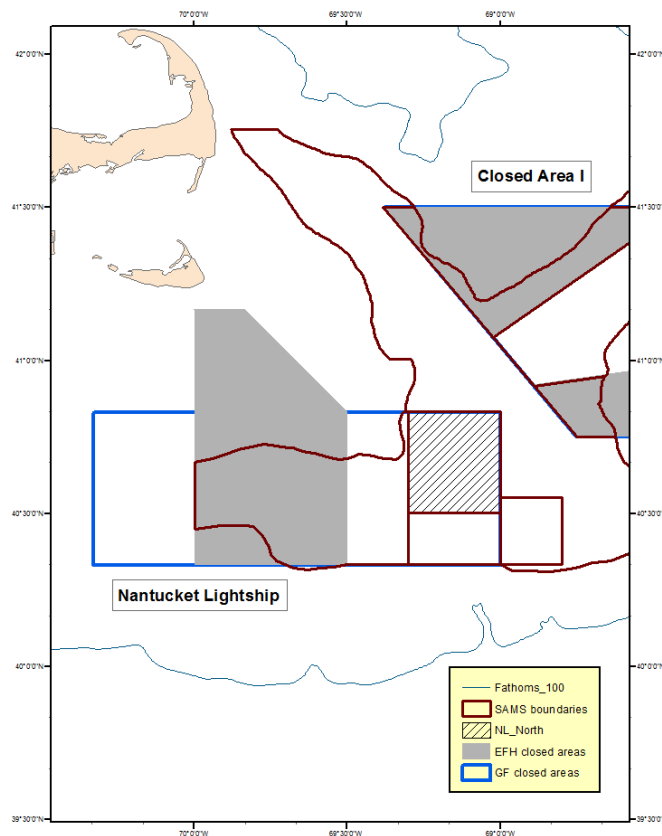
2016 Access Area Closures:

- Closed Area I and Closed Area II Access Areas are closed for fishing year 2016.
- The northwest corner of the Elephant Trunk Access Area, known as the Elephant Trunk Closed Area, remains closed to scallop fishing. (a map and coordinates for the Elephant Trunk Access Area are included in Appendix B)
 - NOTE: Vessels are prohibited from transiting the Elephant Trunk Closed Area when on a declared scallop trip.

2016 Access Area Trip Allocations:

- The Mid-Atlantic Access Area (MAAA) and the Nantucket Lightship North Access Area (NLSN) are open to scallop fishing in fishing year 2016. (coordinates for the MAAA and NLSN are included in Appendix B)
- IFQ vessels are allocated 2,068 fleet-wide trips into the MAAA and 485 fleet-wide trips into the NLSN.
- The MAAA and the NLSN will be open for the remainder of the 2016 fishing year (i.e., there are no seasonal closures).
- Once we project that all trips have been taken in an area, we will close that area to IFQ vessels.

Nantucket Lightship North Access Area **IFQ ONLY******



Point	Latitude	Longitude
NLNAA1	40°50' N.	69°00' W.
NLNAA2	40°30' N.	69°00' W.
NLNAA3	40°30' N.	69°30' W.
NLNAA4	40°50' N.	69°30' W.
NLNAA1	40°50' N.	69°00' W.

LAGC Northern Gulf of Maine (NGOM) Management Area Scallop Possession Limit and Total Allowable Catch (TAC):

Vessels issued an LAGC NGOM scallop permit are restricted to 200 lb shucked or 25 U.S. bu in-shell scallops per trip.

The NGOM TAC for fishing year 2016 is 67,454 lb. Please note that this is slightly lower than the recent TAC which has been 70,000 lb annually. We had to reduce the TAC for 2016 because the NGOM catch in the fishing year 2015 NGOM fishery was 2,546 lb over the 70,000-lb NGOM TAC. We are required to implement an accountability measure that reduces the fishing year 2016 NGOM TAC by the amount of the overharvest. If the NGOM fleet harvests this TAC from the NGOM area, we will close the NGOM to all scallop vessels for the remainder of the fishing year.

LAGC Incidental Scallop Target TAC: The incidental scallop target TAC for fishing year 2016 is 50,000 lb. Vessels issued an LAGC Incidental Catch scallop permit may only land up to 40 lb shucked or 5 U.S. bu of in-shell scallops per trip.

Fishing Year 2016 Groundfish Annual Catch Limits (ACL) in the Scallop Fishery:

Stock	Scallop ACL
Georges Bank Yellowtail Flounder	42.0 mt (92,594 lb)
SNE/MA Yellowtail Flounder	39.0 mt (85,980 lb)
SNE/MA Windowpane Flounder	209.0 mt (460,766 lb)

These limits are for both the LAGC fleet and limited access fleet combined. For more information about yellowtail flounder and windowpane flounder catch limits in the scallop fishery, go to <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/regs/info.html>

Important LAGC Program Reminders

Observer Set-Aside Compensation: LAGC IFQ vessel owners must call in weekly to the NMFS's Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (see attachment for call-in instructions) to report scallop IFQ trips you expect to take during the week. Vessel operators must call by Thursday if they expect to make any open area (or access area) trips from Sunday through Saturday of the following week. Observer service providers should charge dock-to-dock, where a "day" is considered a 24-hr period and portions of other days should be pro-rated at an hourly charge.

If NMFS selects your IFQ vessel for an open area or access area observed trip, you will receive observer compensation credit of 175 lb per trip if the observer set-aside has not been fully harvested. You can fish those additional pounds on the observed IFQ trip above the regular possession limit or on a subsequent trip that fishing year (but you must harvest these pounds within the current possession limit if you fish them on a future trip).

NMFS monitors the compensation rates and the observer set-aside use in each area very closely throughout the year. If information suggests that a different rate is necessary to account for unexpected fishery conditions, NMFS will change the compensation rate as appropriate.

LAGC Calendar Day Landing Restriction: LAGC vessels may not land scallops more than once per calendar day. For example, an LAGC vessel that lands scallops on Monday may depart on a second trip on the same day it landed scallops (Monday), but cannot land scallops again until Tuesday or later.

Scallop Pre-Landing Notification: LACG IFQ and NGOM vessels must send a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Scallop Pre-Landing Notification form at least 6 hours before arrival on the way back to port, or immediately after fishing ends if less than 6 hours before arrival. In addition, you must submit this form on trips that are not declared as scallop trips, but on which scallops are kept incidentally. Forms must include:

- Operator's permit number
- VTR serial number recorded from that trip's VTR
- Estimated Amount of scallop meats and/or bushels to be landed
- Estimated time and date of arrival in port
- Port City and State at which the scallops will be landed
- Whether any scallops were caught in the NGOM.

Daily Scallop Catch Reports: Scallop catch reports are required to be submitted daily for vessels that fish for, possess, or retain scallops and not also fishing under a NE multispecies DAS or sector allocation. These reports must be submitted in 24-hour intervals for each day of fishing that begins at 0000 hours and ends at 2400 hours. The reports must be submitted before 9:00 a.m. local time each day for the previous day's catch. Each report must include the Operator's permit number, VTR serial number, the date fish were caught, the total pounds of scallop meats kept, and the total pounds of all other fish kept.

MAAA Declaration Instructions: To declare a MAAA trip, please use the Mid-Atlantic SAA declaration (SES-SCG-MAXXXX).

- NOTE: Do not declare a Hudson Canyon, Elephant Trunk or Delmarva access area trip.

Shell Stock Restrictions:

- Vessels fishing in the Georges Bank paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) closure area may not retain in-shell scallops.
- Vessels fishing in or transiting the area south of 42°20'N. lat. at any time during a trip may possess no more than 75 bu of in-shell scallops shoreward of the VMS demarcation line.
- A vessel declared into the Sea Scallop Area Access Program may not possess more than 75 bu of in-shell scallops outside of the access area.